

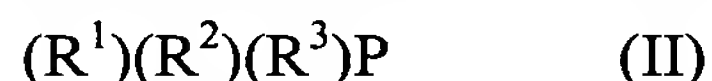
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (Original) A process for producing a phosphonium borate compound, which comprises:

reacting a phosphine with HCl to produce a phosphine hydrochloride, the phosphine being represented by Formula (II):



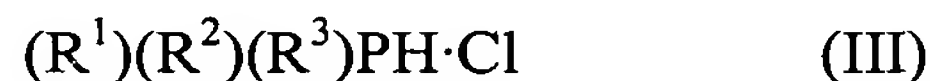
wherein R^1 is a primary alkyl group of 1 to 20 carbon atoms, a secondary alkyl group of 3 to 20 carbon atoms, a tertiary alkyl group of 4 to 20 carbon atoms, or a cycloalkyl group of 3 to 20 carbon atoms;

R^2 is a hydrogen atom, a primary alkyl group of 1 to 20 carbon atoms, a secondary alkyl group of 3 to 20 carbon atoms, a tertiary alkyl group of 4 to 20 carbon atoms, a cycloalkyl group of 3 to 20 carbon atoms, an aralkyl group of 7 to 20 carbon atoms, or an allyl group of 3 to 20 carbon atoms;

R^3 is a hydrogen atom, a primary alkyl group of 1 to 20 carbon atoms, a secondary alkyl group of 3 to 20 carbon atoms, a tertiary alkyl group of 4 to 20 carbon atoms, a cycloalkyl group of 3 to 20 carbon atoms, an aryl group of 6 to 30 carbon atoms, an aralkyl group of 7 to 20 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group of 2 to 20 carbon atoms, an alkynyl group of 2 to 20 carbon atoms, or an allyl group of 3 to 20 carbon atoms; and

R^1 , R^2 and R^3 may be the same or different from one another;

the phosphine hydrochloride being represented by Formula (III):



wherein R^1 , R^2 and R^3 are as defined in Formula (II);

and

reacting the phosphine hydrochloride with a tetraarylborate compound represented by Formula (IV):



wherein M is lithium, sodium, potassium, magnesium halide or calcium halide, and Ar is an aryl group of 6 to 20 carbon atoms;

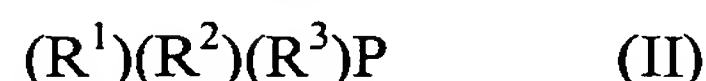
the phosphonium borate compound being represented by Formula (I):



wherein R^1 , R^2 and R^3 are as defined in Formula (II), and Ar is as defined in Formula (IV).

2. (Original) A process for producing a trialkylphosphonium tetraphenylborate according to claim 1, which comprises:

reacting a trialkylphosphine with HCl to produce a trialkylphosphine hydrochloride, the trialkylphosphine being represented by Formula (II):



wherein R^1 , R^2 and R^3 are ethyl, n-butyl, tert-butyl or cyclohexyl groups, and are the same;

the trialkylphosphine hydrochloride being represented by Formula (III):



wherein R^1 , R^2 and R^3 are as defined in Formula (II);

and

reacting the trialkylphosphine hydrochloride with a tetraphenylborate compound represented by Formula (IV):



wherein M is lithium, sodium, potassium, magnesium halide or calcium halide, and Ar is phenyl group;

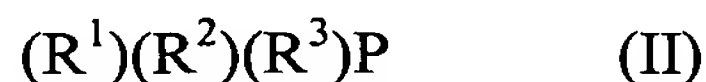
the trialkylphosphonium tetraphenylborate being represented by Formula (I):



wherein R^1 , R^2 and R^3 are as defined in Formula (II), and Ar is as defined in Formula (IV).

3. (Original) A process for producing a novel phosphonium borate compound according to claim 1, which comprises:

reacting a phosphine with HCl to produce a phosphine hydrochloride, the phosphine being represented by Formula (II):



wherein R^1 is a secondary alkyl group of 3 to 20 carbon atoms, a tertiary alkyl group of 4 to 20 carbon atoms, or a cycloalkyl group of 3 to 20 carbon atoms;

R^2 is a hydrogen atom, a primary alkyl group of 1 to 20 carbon atoms, a secondary alkyl group of 3 to 20 carbon atoms, a tertiary alkyl group of 4 to 20 carbon atoms, a cycloalkyl group of 3 to 20 carbon atoms, an aralkyl group of 7 to 20 carbon atoms, or an allyl group of 3 to 20 carbon atoms;

R^3 is a hydrogen atom, a primary alkyl group of 1 to 20 carbon atoms, a secondary alkyl group of 3 to 20 carbon atoms, a tertiary alkyl group of 4 to 20 carbon atoms, a cycloalkyl group of 3 to 20 carbon atoms, an aryl group of 6 to 30 carbon atoms, an aralkyl group of 7 to 20 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group of 2 to 20 carbon atoms, an alkynyl group of 2 to 20 carbon atoms, or an allyl group of 3 to 20 carbon atoms; and

R^1 , R^2 and R^3 may be the same or different from one another;

the phosphine hydrochloride being represented by Formula (III):



wherein R^1 , R^2 and R^3 are as defined in Formula (II);

and

reacting the phosphine hydrochloride with a tetraarylborate compound represented by Formula (IV):



wherein M is lithium, sodium, potassium, magnesium halide or calcium halide, and Ar is an aryl group of 6 to 20 carbon atoms;

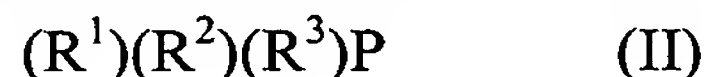
the phosphonium borate compound being represented by Formula (I):



wherein R^1 , R^2 and R^3 are as defined in Formula (II), Ar is as defined in Formula (IV), R^1 , R^2 and R^3 cannot be tert-butyl groups simultaneously and Ar cannot be phenyl group at the same time, and R^1 , R^2 and R^3 cannot be cyclohexyl groups simultaneously and Ar cannot be phenyl group at the same time.

4. (Original) A process for producing a phosphonium borate compound, which comprises:

reacting a phosphine with H_2SO_4 to produce a phosphine sulfate, the phosphine being represented by Formula (II):



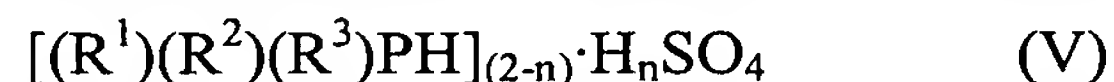
wherein R^1 is a primary alkyl group of 1 to 20 carbon atoms, a secondary alkyl group of 3 to 20 carbon atoms, a tertiary alkyl group of 4 to 20 carbon atoms, or a cycloalkyl group of 3 to 20 carbon atoms;

R^2 is a hydrogen atom, a primary alkyl group of 1 to 20 carbon atoms, a secondary alkyl group of 3 to 20 carbon atoms, a tertiary alkyl group of 4 to 20 carbon atoms, a cycloalkyl group of 3 to 20 carbon atoms, an aralkyl group of 7 to 20 carbon atoms, or an allyl group of 3 to 20 carbon atoms;

R^3 is a hydrogen atom, a primary alkyl group of 1 to 20 carbon atoms, a secondary alkyl group of 3 to 20 carbon atoms, a tertiary alkyl group of 4 to 20 carbon atoms, a cycloalkyl group of 3 to 20 carbon atoms, an aryl group of 6 to 30 carbon atoms, an aralkyl group of 7 to 20 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group of 2 to 20 carbon atoms, an alkynyl group of 2 to 20 carbon atoms, or an allyl group of 3 to 20 carbon atoms; and

R^1 , R^2 and R^3 may be the same or different from one another;

the phosphine sulfate being represented by Formula (V):



wherein R^1 , R^2 and R^3 are as defined in Formula (II), and n is an integer of 0 or 1;

and

reacting the phosphine sulfate with a tetraarylborate compound represented by Formula (IV):



wherein M is lithium, sodium, potassium, magnesium halide or calcium halide, and Ar is an aryl group of 6 to 20 carbon atoms;

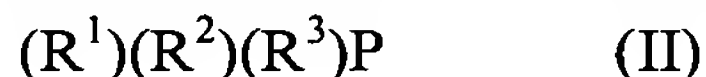
the phosphonium borate compound being represented by Formula (I):



wherein R^1 , R^2 and R^3 are as defined in Formula (II), and Ar is as defined in Formula (IV).

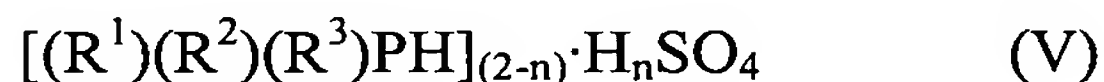
5. (Original) A process for producing a trialkylphosphonium tetraphenylborate according to claim 4, which comprises:

reacting a trialkylphosphine with H_2SO_4 to produce a trialkylphosphine sulfate, the trialkylphosphine being represented by Formula (II):



wherein R^1 , R^2 and R^3 are ethyl, n-butyl, tert-butyl or cyclohexyl groups, and are the same;

the trialkylphosphine sulfate being represented by Formula (V):



wherein R^1 , R^2 and R^3 are as defined in Formula (II), and n is an integer of 0 or 1;

and

reacting the trialkylphosphine sulfate with a tetraphenylborate compound represented by Formula (IV):



wherein M is lithium, sodium, potassium, magnesium halide or calcium halide, and Ar is phenyl group;

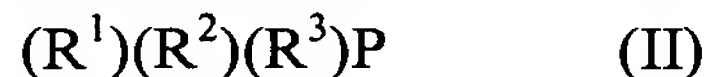
the trialkylphosphonium tetraphenylborate being represented by Formula (I):



wherein R^1 , R^2 and R^3 are as defined in Formula (II), and Ar is as defined in Formula (IV).

6. (Original) A process for producing a novel phosphonium borate compound according to claim 4, which comprises:

reacting a phosphine with H_2SO_4 to produce a phosphine sulfate, the phosphine being represented by Formula (II):



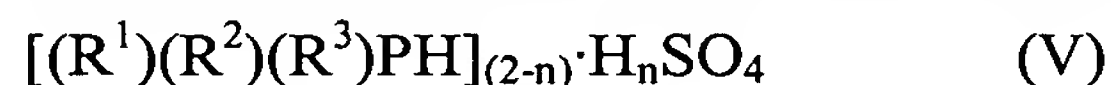
wherein R^1 is a secondary alkyl group of 3 to 20 carbon atoms, a tertiary alkyl group of 4 to 20 carbon atoms, or a cycloalkyl group of 3 to 20 carbon atoms;

R^2 is a hydrogen atom, a primary alkyl group of 1 to 20 carbon atoms, a secondary alkyl group of 3 to 20 carbon atoms, a tertiary alkyl group of 4 to 20 carbon atoms, a cycloalkyl group of 3 to 20 carbon atoms, an aralkyl group of 7 to 20 carbon atoms, or an allyl group of 3 to 20 carbon atoms;

R^3 is a hydrogen atom, a primary alkyl group of 1 to 20 carbon atoms, a secondary alkyl group of 3 to 20 carbon atoms, a tertiary alkyl group of 4 to 20 carbon atoms, a cycloalkyl group of 3 to 20 carbon atoms, an aryl group of 6 to 30 carbon atoms, an aralkyl group of 7 to 20 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group of 2 to 20 carbon atoms, an alkynyl group of 2 to 20 carbon atoms, or an allyl group of 3 to 20 carbon atoms; and

R^1 , R^2 and R^3 may be the same or different from one another;

the phosphine sulfate being represented by Formula (V):



wherein R^1 , R^2 and R^3 are as defined in Formula (II), and n is an integer of 0 or 1;

and

reacting the phosphine sulfate with a tetraarylborate compound represented by Formula (IV):



wherein M is lithium, sodium, potassium, magnesium halide or calcium halide, and Ar is an aryl group of 6 to 20 carbon atoms;

the phosphonium borate compound being represented by Formula (I):



wherein R^1 , R^2 and R^3 are as defined in Formula (II), Ar is as defined in Formula (IV), R^1 , R^2 and R^3 cannot be tert-butyl groups simultaneously and Ar cannot be phenyl group at the same time, and R^1 , R^2 and R^3 cannot be cyclohexyl groups simultaneously and Ar cannot be phenyl group at the same time.

7. (Original) A novel phosphonium borate compound represented by Formula (I):



wherein R^1 is a secondary alkyl group of 3 to 20 carbon atoms, a tertiary alkyl group of 4 to 20 carbon atoms, or a cycloalkyl group of 3 to 20 carbon atoms;

R^2 is a hydrogen atom, a primary alkyl group of 1 to 20 carbon atoms, a secondary alkyl group of 3 to 20 carbon atoms, a tertiary alkyl group of 4 to 20 carbon atoms, a cycloalkyl group of 3 to 20 carbon atoms, an aralkyl group of 7 to 20 carbon atoms, or an allyl group of 3 to 20 carbon atoms;

R^3 is a hydrogen atom, a primary alkyl group of 1 to 20 carbon atoms, a secondary alkyl group of 3 to 20 carbon atoms, a tertiary alkyl group of 4 to 20 carbon atoms, a cycloalkyl group of 3 to 20 carbon atoms, an aryl group of 6 to 30 carbon atoms, an aralkyl group of 7 to 20 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group of 2 to 20 carbon atoms, an alkynyl group of 2 to 20 carbon atoms, or an allyl group of 3 to 20 carbon atoms;

R^1 , R^2 and R^3 may be the same or different from one another;

Ar is an aryl group of 6 to 20 carbon atoms;

R^1 , R^2 and R^3 cannot be tert-butyl groups simultaneously and Ar cannot be phenyl group at the same time; and

R^1 , R^2 and R^3 cannot be cyclohexyl groups simultaneously and Ar cannot be phenyl group at the same time.

8. (Original) The phosphonium borate compound according to claim 7, which is di-tert-butylmethylphosphonium tetraphenylborate.

9. (Original) The phosphonium borate compound according to claim 7, which is tri-tert-butylphosphonium tetra-para-tolylborate.

10. (Original) The phosphonium borate compound according to claim 7, which is tricyclohexylphosphonium tetra-para-tolylborate.

11. (Original) The phosphonium borate compound according to claim 7, which is triisopropylphosphonium tetraphenylborate.

12. (Original) Use of a phosphonium borate compound in combination with a transition metal, transition metal salt, transition metal oxide or transition metal complex in carbon-carbon bond forming reactions, carbon-nitrogen bond forming reactions and carbon-oxygen bond forming reactions wherein a transition metal complex having a phosphine ligand produces catalytic effects, wherein the phosphonium borate compound in combination with the transition metal, transition metal salt, transition metal oxide or transition metal complex is used in place of the transition metal complex having a phosphine ligand, the phosphonium borate compound being represented by Formula (I):



wherein R^1 is a primary alkyl group of 1 to 20 carbon atoms, a secondary alkyl group of 3 to 20 carbon atoms, a tertiary alkyl group of 4 to 20 carbon atoms, or a cycloalkyl group of 3 to 20 carbon atoms;

R^2 is a hydrogen atom, a primary alkyl group of 1 to 20 carbon atoms, a secondary alkyl group of 3 to 20 carbon atoms, a tertiary alkyl group of 4 to 20 carbon atoms, a cycloalkyl group of 3 to 20 carbon atoms, an aralkyl group of 7 to 20 carbon atoms, or an allyl group of 3 to 20 carbon atoms;

R^3 is a hydrogen atom, a primary alkyl group of 1 to 20 carbon atoms, a secondary alkyl group of 3 to 20 carbon atoms, a tertiary alkyl group of 4 to 20 carbon atoms, a cycloalkyl group of 3 to 20 carbon atoms, an aryl group of 6 to 30 carbon atoms, an aralkyl group of 7 to 20 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group of 2 to 20 carbon atoms, an alkynyl group of 2 to 20 carbon atoms, or an allyl group of 3 to 20 carbon atoms;

R^1 , R^2 and R^3 may be the same or different from one another; and

Ar is an aryl group of 6 to 20 carbon atoms.

13. (Original) The use of a phosphonium borate compound according to claim 12, wherein the transition metal is manganese, iron, cobalt, nickel, ruthenium, rhodium, palladium or platinum.

14. (Currently Amended) The use of a phosphonium borate compound according to claim 12, wherein the transition metal salt is a fluoride, chloride, bromide, iodide, sulfate, nitrate, nitrite, carbonate, borate, ammonium salt, sodium salt, potassium salt,

acetate, trifluoroacetate, acetylacetone salt, hydride salt, sulfide or cyanide of the transition metal-as-described-in-claim-13, wherein the transition metal is manganese, iron, cobalt, nickel, ruthenium, rhodium, palladium or platinum.

15. (Currently Amended) The use of a phosphonium borate compound according to claim 12, wherein the transition metal oxide is an oxide of the transition metal-as-described-in-claim-13, wherein the transition metal is manganese, iron, cobalt, nickel, ruthenium, rhodium, palladium or platinum.

16. (Currently Amended) The use of a phosphonium borate compound according to claim 12, wherein the transition metal complex is a benzonitrile complex, acetonitrile complex, triphenylphosphine complex, ethylene complex, allyl complex, butadiene complex, cyclopentadiene complex, cyclooctadiene complex, cyclooctatetraene complex, carbonyl complex, dibenzylideneacetone complex, amine complex, ethylenediamine complex, pyridine complex or disiloxane complex of the transition metal-as-described-in-claim-13, wherein the transition metal is manganese, iron, cobalt, nickel, ruthenium, rhodium, palladium or platinum.